

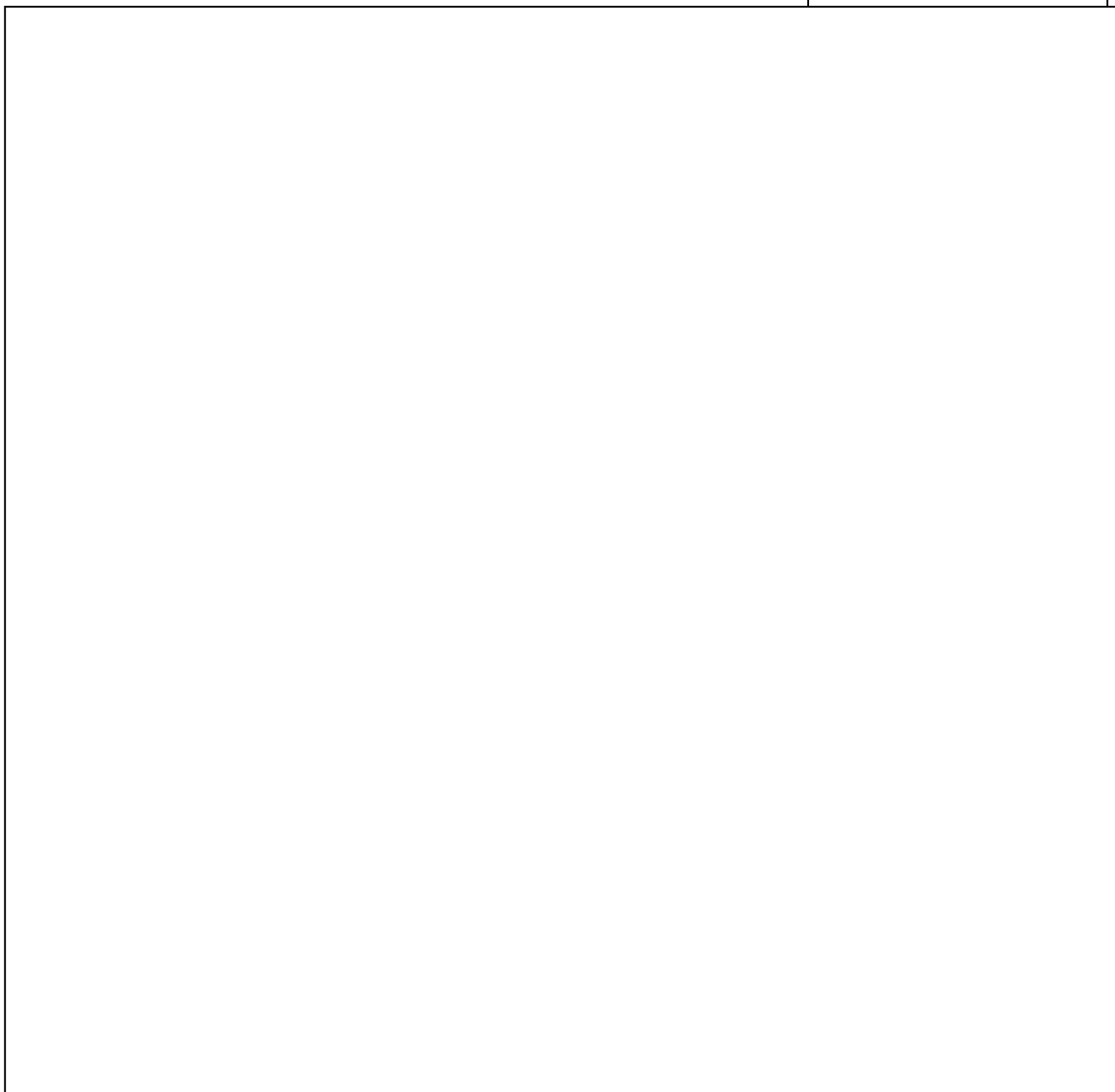
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: APR 2004

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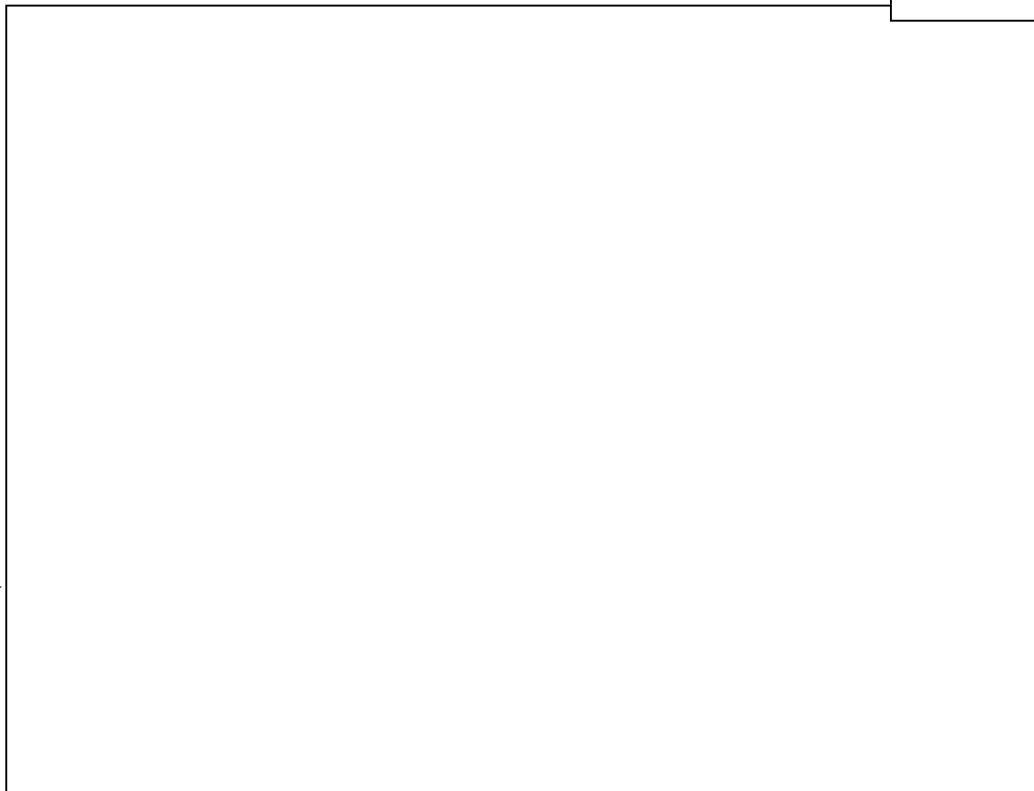
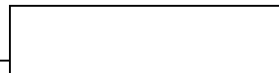
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2. UKRAINE-KAZAKHSTAN: EVOLVING STRATEGIC NUCLEAR POLICIES



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2. UKRAINE-KAZAKHSTAN: EVOLVING STRATEGIC NUCLEAR POLICIES [REDACTED]

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT KRAVCHUK HAS SAID UKRAINE, BYELARUS, KAZAKHSTAN, AND RUSSIA WILL SOON SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO ELIMINATE CIS STRATEGIC WEAPONS, ACCORDING TO WESTERN PRESS REPORTS. HIS ADVISER INDICATED THAT MANY PROBLEMS REMAIN IN REMOVING AND DESTROYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, HOWEVER, AND THAT WESTERN HELP IS NEEDED. RECENT POLLING SUGGESTS THAT ONLY ABOUT ONE-FOURTH OF THE POPULATION WANTS KIEV TO HAVE ITS OWN NUCLEAR FORCE. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: KRAVCHUK'S ANNOUNCEMENT PROBABLY WAS INTENDED TO CALM WESTERN CONCERNS THAT KIEV MAY RENEGE ON ITS NUCLEAR-FREE COMMITMENT, THEREBY THREATENING START RATIFICATION. BOTH KAZAKHSTAN AND UKRAINE RECENTLY HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THEY WOULD BECOME NUCLEAR-FREE STATES IF THE WEST PROVIDES SECURITY GUARANTEES. BOTH COUNTRIES BELIEVE THAT THEIR NEGOTIATING LEVERAGE--BOTH WITH RUSSIA AND THE WEST--WILL DECLINE SHARPLY AFTER NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE REMOVED. NAZARBAYEV--WHOSE POSITION APPEARS TO HAVE HARDENED IN THE PAST MONTH--AND KRAVCHUK PROBABLY WILL DRIVE A HARD BARGAIN WITH MOSCOW ON THE TIMETABLE FOR REMOVING STRATEGIC WEAPONS; [REDACTED] BOTH STATES WILL TRY TO KEEP SOME WEAPONS, AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF THE DECADE. [REDACTED]

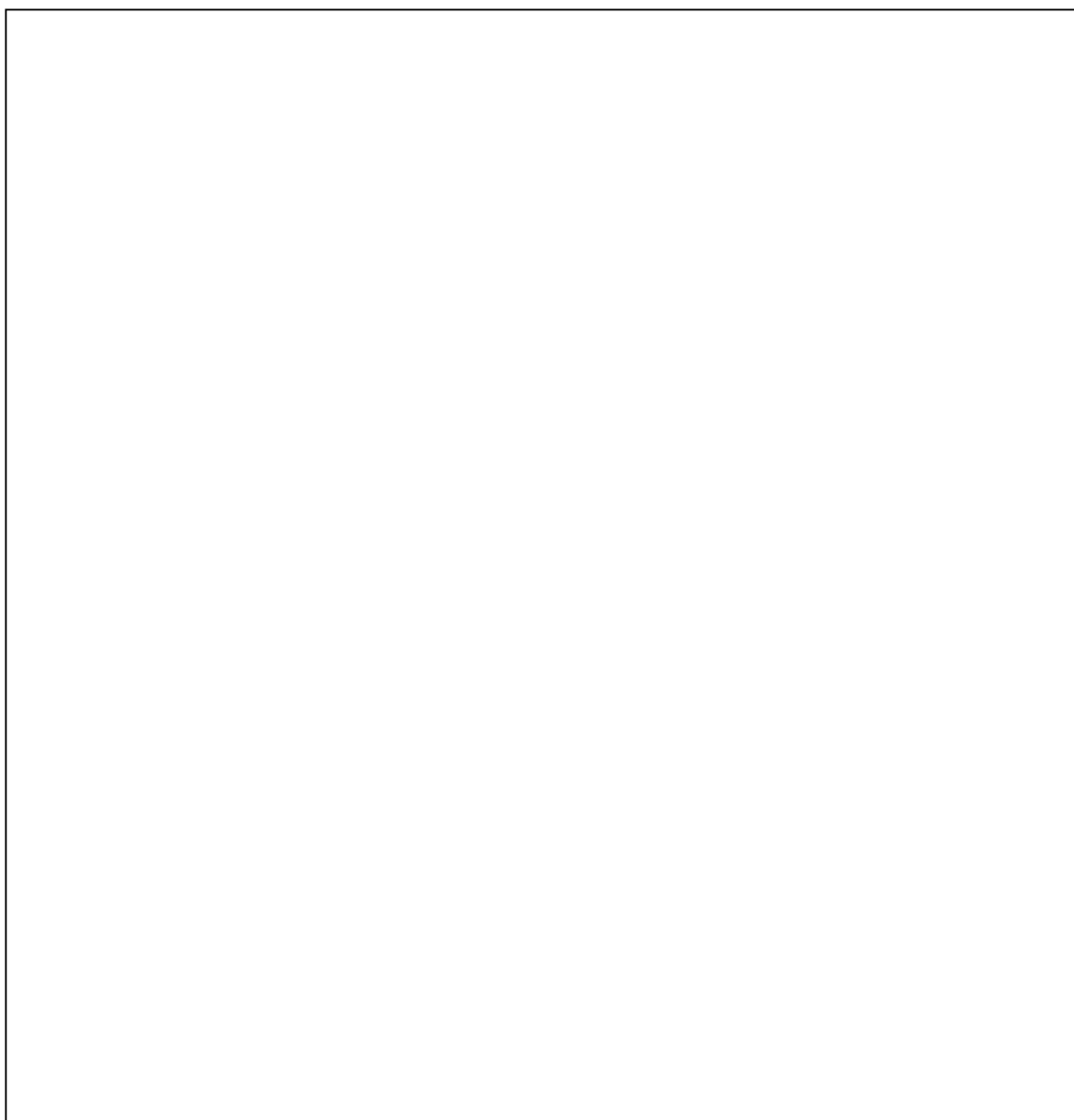
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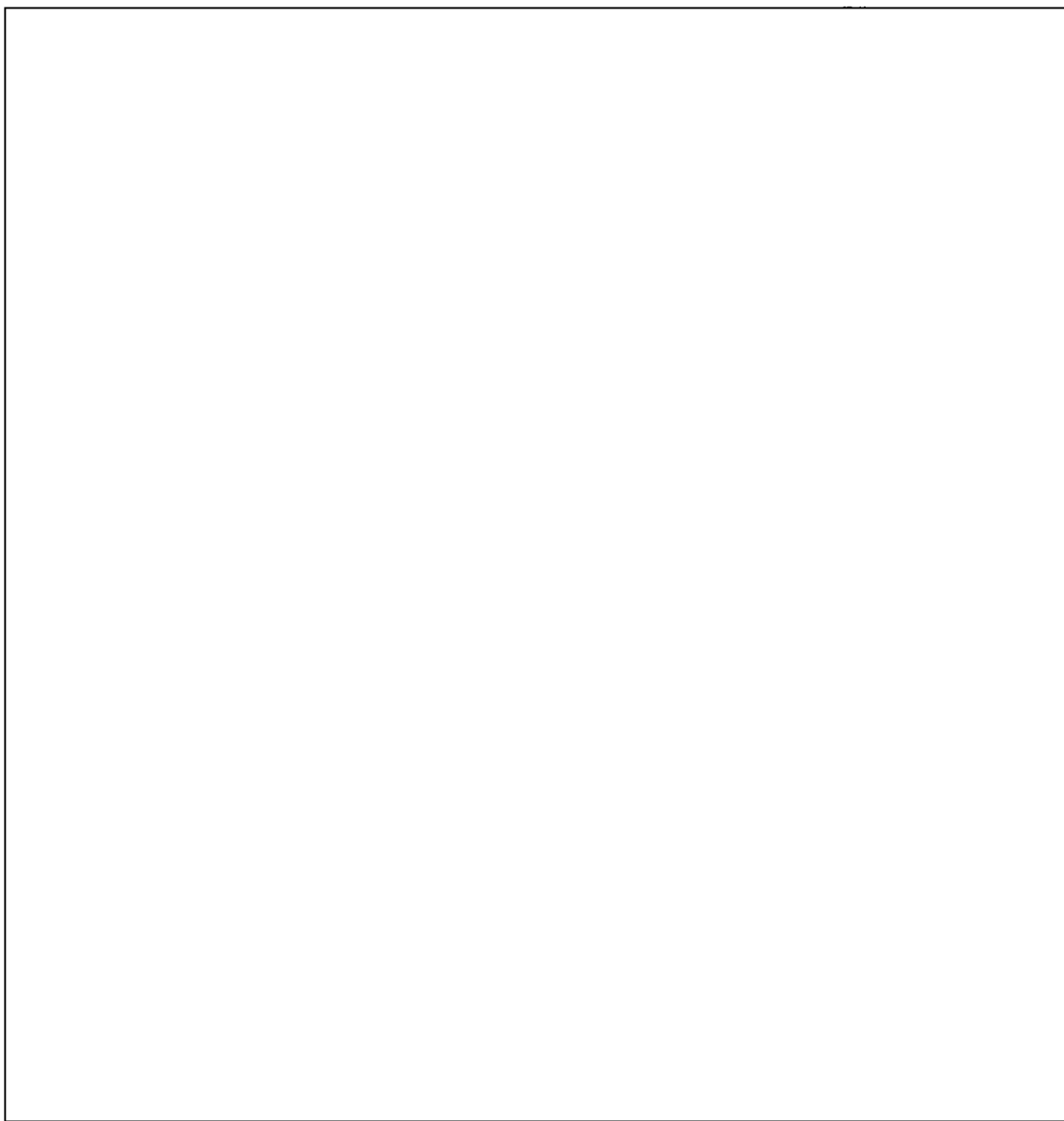
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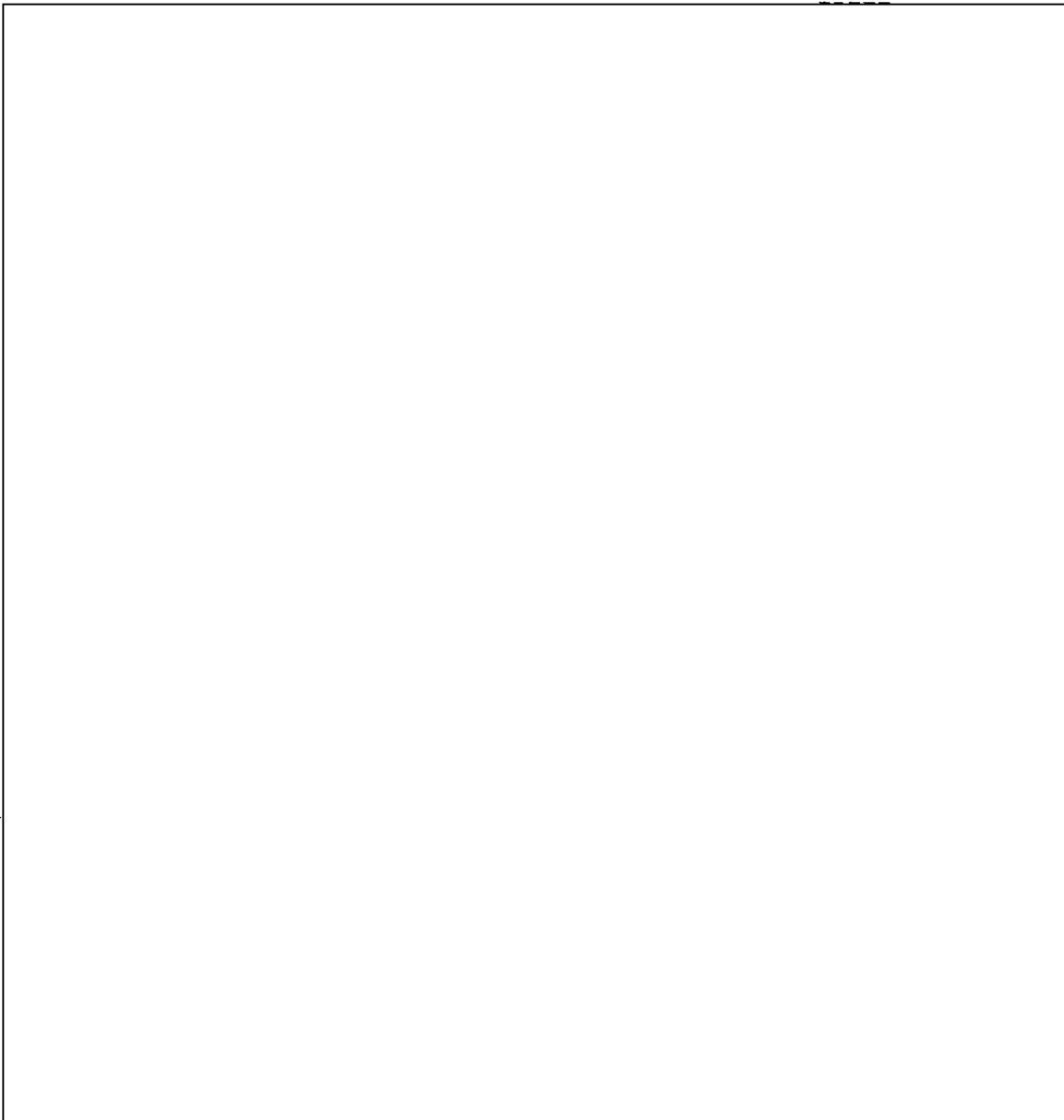
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